Patent Claims

1. Method for inputting data into a system, in which

- in response to an input by a user, one or more terms, which are as appropriate as possible for this input, are determined as identified terms,
- a confidence value is defined for each of these identified terms, and
- the terms associated with an input are dealt with further, taking account of their confidence values.

2. Method according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the confidence value is a value from an interval between a number, preferably 1, corresponding to reliable identification, and that for an input which cannot be identified, corresponding to 0, including these values.

3. Method according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, **characterized in that** the identified terms are announced and/or displayed to a user as a system response, starting with the term identified as being the most reliable, on the basis of their confidence values.

4. Method according to Claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that,** for each identified term, those data records which are appropriate for the identified terms are looked for in a list of stored data records.

5. Method according to Claim 4, **characterized in that,** when data are being input, the input is completed by a data record appropriate for the identified term, using a form-based dialogue structure.

6. Method according to Claim 5, **characterized in that** the data input is completed in response to a request signal.

7. Method according to Claim 5 ~~or 6,~~ **characterized in that** the number of data records found can be reduced by inputting one or more further terms.

8. Method according to Claims 4 to 7, **characterized in that** each stored data record is assigned a probability value, which describes the probability of the data record being used again.

9. Method according to Claim 8, **characterized in that** the probability value for a data record corresponds to the ratio of the number of times this data record has been used to the total number of times all the data records have been used.

10. Method according to Claim 8 or 9, **characterized in that** an announcement/display sequence of the data records is defined as a function of their probability value and the confidence value of the associated term.

11. Method according to Claims 3 to 10, **characterized in that** the identified terms are announced and/or displayed individually and successively, or as a selection list for confirmation or selection.

12. Method according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that,** if the input is a voice input, the confidence value is established in the normal manner for voice recognition.

13. Method according to Claim 12, **characterized in that** the voice input by a user is first of all subjected to speaker identification, and in that the subsequent voice recognition process is carried out taking account of the result of the speaker identification.

14. Method according to Claims 1 to 11, **characterized in that** the input is made via an alphanumeric input device, with the terms entered in this way first of all being assigned the confidence value for reliable identification.

15. Method according to Claim 14, **characterized in that** an incorrectly alphanumerically input term, which has already frequently been input incorrectly in a manner specific to a particular user, is assigned a

lower confidence value as a function of input-specific error statistics.

16. Method according to Claim 14 ~~or 15~~, **characterized in that** an incorrectly alphanumerically input term, which has already frequently been input incorrectly in a manner specific to a particular user, is automatically corrected, with the corrected term being assigned a confidence value which is lower than the confidence value for reliable identification.

17. Method ~~according~~ to Claims 1 to 11, **characterized in that** the input is ~~an image~~ input.